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THE INFINITY WAR
THE MAGUS TRIUMPHANT!
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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE ANIMUS ENGAGEMENT

POWER!

THE SLIGHTEST WHIM BECOMES ACTUALITY WITH BUT A THOUGHT.

GRIEVOUS WRONGS ARE RIGHTED BY A MERE URGE.

THE CLAY OF REALITY IS MOLDED IN DREAMS.

EVEN ONE'S DARKEST FANTASIES ARE REALIZED BY A SUB-CONSCIOUS THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

IT IS THE ULTIMATE FREEDOM. A BLESSING THAT CANNOT BE SHARED.

FOR THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE

GOD!

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AND THIS GOD IS THOROUGHLY ENJOYING HIS NEWFOUND STATUS, ADAM.

I SCULPT THE FINAL STAGES OF LONG SOUGHT VENGEANCE.

REVENGE AGAINST A REALITY THAT DENIED MY OWN.

YOU ARE IN MY CLUTCHES.

THE UNIVERSE'S MIGHTIEST HEROES VAINLY BATTLE MY COSMIC CLONES.

EVEN NEFARIOUS THANOS TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF DEFEAT.

BUT MOST SATISFYING IS THE FATE I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOUR PRECIOUS DIMENSION.

IT IS CLOSE TO BEING ABSORBED AND CHANGED INTO A UNIVERSE THAT ONLY MY DARK PSYCHE COULD IMAGINE.

I SHALL FORESTALL JUST RETRIBUTION UNTIL YOU HAVE WITNESSED THAT COME TO PASS.

SAVORING YOUR AGONY MAKES ALL MY EFFORTS WORTHWHILE.

THE MAGUS IS ADJUSTING TOO QUICKLY TO OMNIPOTENCE.

WHAT HOPE IS THERE OF DEFEATING HIM?

NONE.

"FOR HOW CAN ONE RESIST THE DIVINE?

"MY TAKEOVER OF YOUR ACTUALITY, USING MY NOW MISSING COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS--

"--WOULD TAKE HOURS MORE TO ACCOMPLISH."

WHICH REMINDS ME-- I MUST ASCERTAIN WHO PURLOINED THEM AND DEAL WITH THE THIEF MOST HARSHLY.

BUT OTHER MATTERS NOW HAVE A HIGHER PRIORITY.

"SUCH AS MAKING YOUR UNIVERSE MINE AND TURNING IT INTO THE NIGHTMARE I ALWAYS KNEW IT COULD BE.

"SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR REALITY, WARLOCK."

AND, ON AN ASTEROID DRIFTING HIGH ABOVE EARTH...

BUT EARTH...?

WE HAVE FAILED.

THE MAGUS HAS WON THIS ROUND.

ALREADY I FEEL IT METAMORPHOSING INTO SOMETHING UNRECOGNIZABLE.

PROFESSOR, WHAT CAN WE DO?

NOTHING, THOR.

AT LEAST NOT IN THIS DIMENSION.

BUT YOU NOW RETURN TO A REALM WHERE YOUR MIGHT MAY YET ALTER THIS DARK FATE.

WHAT THE--?

THIS WATCHER SECRETLY PRAYS YOU SUCCEED.

...DEVIL?

THOR!

DR. STRANGE, AND HIS BAND OF MYSTICS! GREAT TIMING, GUYS!

MAYBE NOW WE CAN--

WAIT--!

STILL YET ANOTHER RETURNS!

GALACTUS!

RETURNED FROM A FOOL'S ERRAND...

WHAT GIBBERISH DO YOU SPEAK, MORTAL FLEA?

GAMORA, WHAT HAPPENED?

DON'T ASK...

IF YOU CHECK YOUR TELEMETRY, I AM SURE UNDER-STANDING WILL DAWN ON YOU.

ENERGY LEVELS UP IN THE TARGET DIMENSION. ALTERATIONS IN MY OWN REALITY.

YES, MAGE, I HAVE GRIEVOUSLY ERRED.

OUR PROSPECTS HAVE GONE FROM DIM TO EBON.

I CAN SEE NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO AID YOUR ALLIES IN A LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO DERAIL THE MAGUS'S PLANS BEFORE HE SETTLES COMFORTABLY INTO OMNIPOTENCE.

STRANGE, DO YOU AND THE OTHERS JOIN ME IN THIS SUICIDAL ENDEAVOR?

AN EXCELLENT MOVE UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, GALACTUS.

HE HOPES CLUTTERING THE BATTLEFIELD WITH CANNON FODDER WILL ALLOW HIM A CLEAR SHOT AT ME.

"HE HASN'T YET REALIZED HE TOO NOW RANKS AMONG THE EASILY VICTIMIZED.

"BUT HE'LL SOON LEARN.

"EVEN NOW HE JOINS WHAT IS LEFT OF THE FRAY TAKING PLACE IN THE OUTER COURTYARD.

"ONLY FOUR OF THE INITIAL ASSAULT FORCE REMAIN TO BE TAKEN OVER BY MY DARK DOUBLES.

"THE FOOLS WILL SEE GALACTUS'S ARRIVAL AS THE CAVALRY ARRIVING JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.

"A CHILDISH NOTION.

"THERE IS NO SALVATION TO BE FOUND WITHIN THESE DIRE STRAITS!"

I HAVE ALL THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIERS SET UP EXACTLY AS I WANT THEM.

THE GAME IS OVER.

"TIME TO TIDY UP."

SNAP

THE BAD GUYS!

WHERE THEY GO?!

SNAP

NOW MY HOUSE IS AT LAST IN ORDER!

BEHOLD GOD'S TROPHY ROOM!

LET ALL THE COSMOS SEE THAT MINE IS THE WILL AND LET NONE DISPUTE THIS CLAIM!

THE MAGUS IS TRULY UNIQUE!

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING UNDER THE STARS LIKE HIM!

NOR EVER WILL THERE BE!

BOASTFUL SHADOW.

THAT IS ALL ABOUT TO CHANGE!

WITH A *TOUCH* YOU SHALL *CEASE TO BE*... AND ALL TRACE OF YOUR *EVER EXISTING* WILL BE OBLITERATED. *NONE* WILL REMEMBER YOU BECAUSE YOU WILL *NEVER HAVE BEEN!*

WHO THEN WILL BE THE *SHADOW?*

KA-THOOM

HE WHO HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN SUCH.

THANOS!

THE *ORIGINAL.*

I SEE MY *THRALL* HAS FALLEN BEFORE YOUR *RAGE!*

AND IN DOING SO HAS SEALED YOUR FATE ALSO.

A CLAIM THAT RINGS HOLLOW IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D SAY.

APPEARANCES ARE DECEIVING.

ADVICE FROM THE KING OF DECEIVERS?

BUT IN THIS MATTER I SPEAK THE TRUTH.

IT IS ALL OVER FOR YOU, MAGUS.

IS IT NOW?

ON YOUR WORD ALONE I SHOULD SURRENDER SUPREME POWER AND THROW MYSELF UPON YOUR TENDER MERCIES?

THAT IS THE WISEST COURSE OPEN TO YOU.

IMPUDENT DOLT.

YOU WOULD DARE MOCK ME?

DO YOU NOT REALIZE WHAT IT IS I HAVE BECOME?

I AM GOD!

BOW TO ME!

NOT WILLINGLY.

AND ONLY FOR THE MOMENT.

FOR REALITY IS NOT WHAT YOU PERCEIVE.

REALITY?

REALITY?

REALITY?

'TIS A THREAD WHICH HAS ESCAPED YOUR GRASP!

AND SO THE WEAVE OF YOUR TAPESTRY BEGINS TO UNRAVEL!

NO.

NO!

YOU LIE!

ADMIT THE FALSEHOOD OF YOUR WORDS!

GO NOT TO PERDITION WITH AN UNTRUTH ON YOUR LIPS!

I DO NOT...

LIAR!

IS THIS TOO A LIE, MAGUS?

WHAT?

A SHADE WHO REFUSES TO FADE INTO OBLIVION.

ONE THAT FOOLISHLY SEEKS TO PIT ITS WILL AGAINST MY OWN?

I AM NOW IN CONTACT WITH THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

THE POWER WAS MINE LONG BEFORE YOU DREAMT OF USURPING IT.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE INFINITE WELL REMEMBERS MY TOUCH!

BUT IT WILL BE THE FORCE OF PERSONALITY THAT WINS THIS FRAY!

A CHALLENGE I GLADLY ANSWER--!

BRAVADO FROM A VESSEL WITH NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL WITHIN.

WILL IS NOT AFFECTED BY SUCH ABSTRACTS.

YOU CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST YOUR OWN DARKER HALF!

"I AM PURE ANIMUS, WARLOCK. I AM THE DEPTHS FROM WHICH GREATNESS COMES."

"YOU ARE DESTRUCTION AND GREED. FROM SUCH ASHES NO PHOENIX WILL RISE."

"ALL CITADELS ARE BUILT ON THE RUINS OF WHAT HAS COME BEFORE.

"IT IS THE WAY OF ALL WORLDS.

"OUT OF THE FLAMES SPRINGS TEMPERED STEEL."

"NO MAGUS. YOUR FIRE BURNS TOO FIERCELY.

"SLAG IS THE HEIGHT OF YOUR CREATIVITY."

THANOS, WHAT HAPPENED?

A CLASH OF WOULD-BE GODS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TITAN?

LOOK FOR YOUR-SELF!

BEHOLD EITHER SALVATION--OR ARMAGEDDON!!

GOOD LORD!

"GOOD AND EVIL ARE JOINT PARTNERS IN THE DRIVE THAT IS LIFE.

"WITHOUT THAT UNION, A MAN IS JUST BARELY CAPABLE OF SENTIENT AWARENESS.

"CAN YOU NOT ALREADY FEEL MY DARK WILL OVERWHELMING YOUR MEAGER EFFORTS, WARLOCK?"

"WHAT I SENSE IS THE EMPTY CLANG OF WORDS WITHOUT CONVICTION TO GIVE THEM MASS, MAGUS.

"CORRUPTION SUCH AS YOURS WILL NEVER SUMMON THE INNER RESOURCES NEEDED TO OVERCOME ITS OWN BASE NATURE!"

"WE SHALL SEE."

A DISRUPTION OF THE REALITY FLOW.

THEY'VE LOST CONTROL OF THAT ASPECT WITH-OUT THE....

GALACTUS, YOU MUST--

TOOOOOOO MEEEEEEE MYYYYYYYYY VEEESSEEEL!

EXPERTLY ACCOMPLISHED, WORLD KILLER.

BUT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE.

QUIET, FOOL!

MIGHTY GALACTUS KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE.

"DOES MIGHTY GALACTUS ALSO KNOW THAT OUR CHANCES OF *OUTRUNNING* THIS DISTURBANCE ARE *MINIMAL*?"

"DOES ANNOYING THANOS HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION TO SUGGEST?"

"NO."

"THEN LET SILENCE REIGN."

"MAGUS, OUR CONFLICT RENDS ASUNDER THE PRIZE WE BOTH CRAVE."

"THEN IN VICTORY I SHALL REBUILD FROM THE WRECKAGE!

"YES, I SAID VICTORY!

"YOUR CONCERN IS THE WEAK-NESS THAT I SOUGHT!

"NO!

"IT CAN-NOT END LIKE THIS!"

"IT IS THE CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR THAT SHALL UNDO YOU!

"OPEN YOUR ARMS WIDE, WARLOCK!

"EMBRACE THE STYGIAN DARKNESS!"

NOR SHALL IT!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF DESPERATE TRICK, WARLOCK?

WHO--?

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

HAVING DIFFICULTY FOCUSING MY COSMIC PERCEPTIONS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCE.

FOR REALITY IS PLAYING DIABOLICAL TRICKS ON YOU, WOULD-BE CONQUEROR!

IT SHIFTS AND ALTERS FASTER THAN MERE CORPOREAL SENSES CAN PERCEIVE.

MAGUS, LEARN NOW THE FOLLY OF YOUR AMBITIONS!

BEHOLD THE TRUTH!

NO!

IT CAN'T BE--!

"ETERNITY AND INFINITY--TOGETHER--?!"

NOW WHO IS THE FOOL MAGUS?!

IN YOUR IGNORANCE YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD IMPRISONED A SINGLE ASTRAL ENTITY--BOUND IT TO YOUR WILL.

DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT THE ASPECT OF ALL THERE IS WAS DIVIDED INTO MANAGEABLE SECTIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE?

HAD YOU NO INKLING THAT ETERNITY AND INFINITY ARE BUT DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME COIN?

IF SO, YOUR PLANS WERE DOOMED FROM THE START.

OPEN YOUR ARMS WIDE, MAGUS.

SENSORS SHOW THE CORE OF THE DISRUPTION IS IMPLODING.

OUTER MANIFESTATIONS SHOULD TRIPLE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS.

OUR CHANCES OF OUT-DISTANCING THE BLAST?

NONEXISTENT.

READINGS GOING OFF THE SCALE.

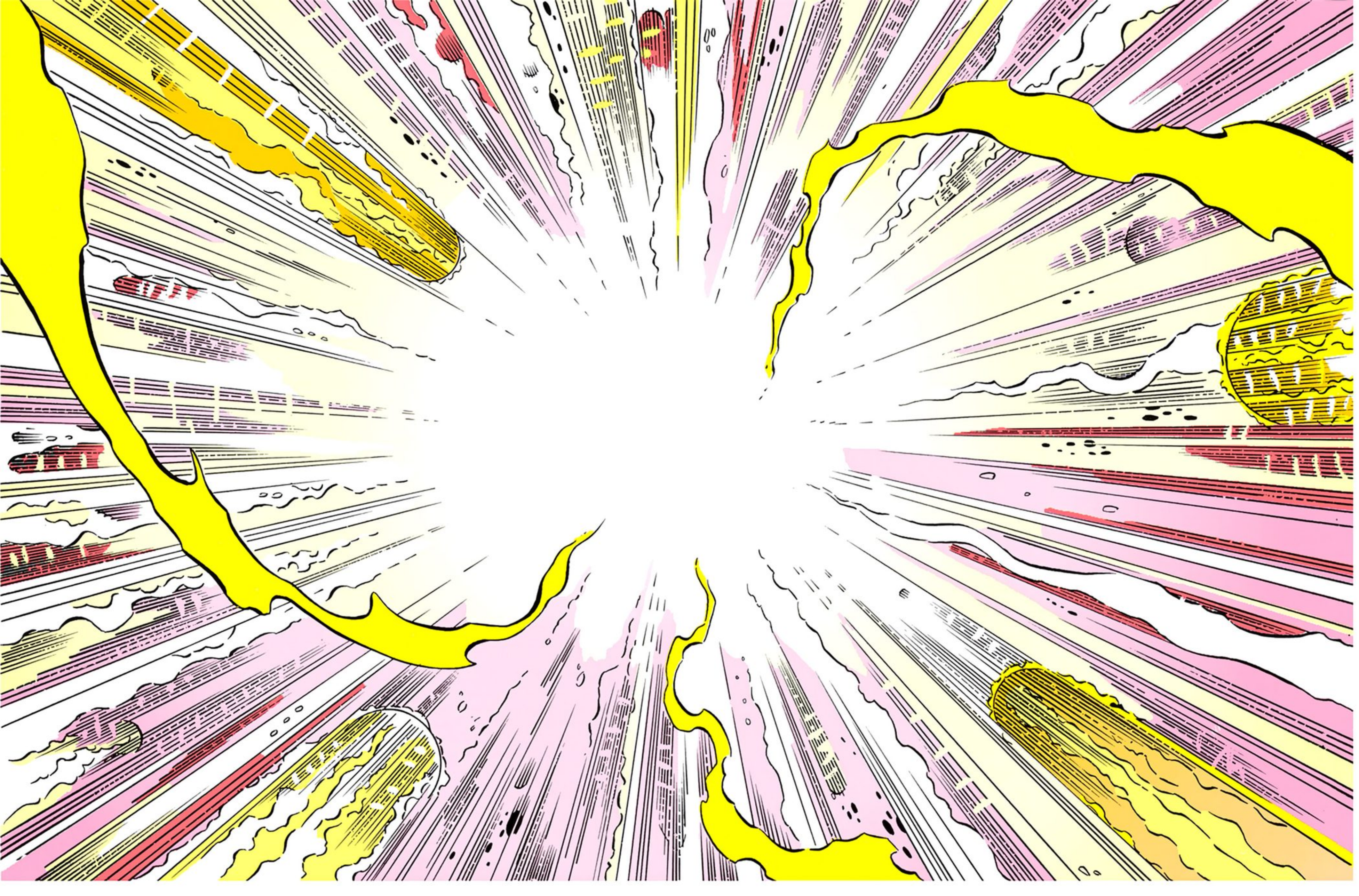
A PITY...

"...WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO WON -- WARLOCK OR THE MAGUS.

"BUT I GUESS IN THE END IT LITTLE MATTERS."

OH, REED...

SUE, I...



IMPOSSIBLE!

WE'RE BACK AT 4 FREEDOMS PLAZA!

HOW?

WHO CARES?!

WE'RE ALIVE!

--THAT WARLOCK WON HIS BATTLE.

MUST HAVE; I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT.

I HAVE LITTLE TASTE FOR SUCH COSMIC CONFLICTS.

MY GUESS IS--

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW THE WAR IS WON WITHOUT FULLY UNDER-STANDING ITS OUTCOME.

AMEN. GIVE ME A ONE-ON-ONE SLUGFEST ANYTIME.

HIGHLY UNSATIS-FYING.

UNFORTUNATELY...

...EXISTENCE IS NOT PREPACKAGED INTO SUCH EASILY DIGESTIBLE BITS.

WHAT NOW?

REALITY IS SAVED.

BUT IS IT ONCE AGAIN RULED OVER BY ONE WHOM I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO FULLY TRUST?

YOU MEAN WARLOCK IS NOW GOD?!

TO THE VICTOR WENT THE INFINITY GAUNTLET AND ALL ITS POWER.

IT IS A SITUATION THAT MUST BE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED.

"BUT, GALACTUS, DIDN'T WARLOCK GIVE UP ULTIMATE POWER ONCE BEFORE?"

"YES, BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE SO WILLING A SECOND TIME."

IT OBVIOUSLY TOOK EVERY IOTA OF HIS WILL POWER TO SET THINGS AS RIGHT AS HE COULD.

EVEN GOT MY SPACE GEM BACK.

BUT THIS TIME HE WASN'T ABLE TO UNIVERSALLY WIPE AWAY THE MEMORY OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED.

THAT'LL MEAN TROUBLE DOWN THE LINE...

NONE WARLOCK NEED WORRY ABOUT.

NOT AS LONG AS HE REMAINS IN A CATATONIC STATE.

DESTROYER NOT SURE WHAT WENT DOWN.

CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN IT TO ME?

WARLOCK AND I GAVE THE MAGUS A TASTE OF GODHOOD.

JUST A TASTE.

WE KNEW HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE LURE OF THE INFINITY GEMS, GATHERED TOGETHER FOR THE TAKING.

IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START HE WAS PLAYING A LARGER HAND THAN HE ALREADY HELD.

IT WAS ALSO QUITE APPARENT THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE *COMPLETE CONTROL* OF THE SITUATION.

HIS DOUBLE OF *ME* ALWAYS APPEARING AT THE EDGE OF THINGS PROVED THAT.

THE CREATURE STANK OF *BETRAYAL* AND *AMBITION*.

REALIZING WE WERE UNDER CONSTANT *SURVEILLANCE*, A SURREPTITIOUS *TRAP* WAS SET.

USING THE *REPLICATION SYSTEM* ON MY VESSEL, I PRODUCED A REASONABLE BUT POWERLESS FACSIMILE OF THE *REALITY GEM*.

AT BEST, THE MAGUS MERELY HAD THE *ILLUSION* OF *OMNIPOTENCE*, NO MORE.

BUT TOO *INTOXICATED* WITH THE POWER HE *DID* POSSESS TO *NOTICE*.

AND WITHOUT THAT ASPECT, THE MAGUS WAS *VULNER-ABLE*.

WARLOCK NEVER HAD THE REALITY GEM, DID HE?

WHICH MEANS IT *REALLY DOES* HAVE A *GUARDIAN*...

AND THAT MAY BE A *SECRET* HE'LL TAKE TO HIS *GRAVE*.

...WHOSE *TRUE IDENTITY* REMAINS A *MYSTERY* TO EVERYBODY BUT *ADAM*.

YOU DON'T FIGURE HIM TO BE COMING *OUT OF* THIS *STUPOR*, DO YOU?

NO, BUT--

ARE YOUR *MENTAL POWERS* PICKING UP ANY *BRAINWAVE ACTIVITY* FROM WARLOCK?

HEY, GANG, WE GOT MORE COMPANY!

ETERNITY.

I FIGURED WE MIGHT BE SEEING YOU.

ONCE AGAIN I AM *REALITY* AND IN *DEBT* TO THE MAN WHO LIES BESIDE YOU.

BUT THAT CHANGES LITTLE IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT IS I.

I HEREBY REINSTITUTE THE *RESTRICTIONS* SET UPON THE *INFINITY GEMS*.

THE GRATITUDE OF KINGS, HUH?

LET IT BE KNOWN THE POWER THAT THE *LIVING TRIBUNAL* REPRESENTS WILL *NEVER* AGAIN ALLOW THE GEMS TO WORK IN *UNISON*.

NO MATTER WHAT THE CRISIS.

FAREWELL.

THAT WAS SHORT AND SWEET.

KINDA LIKE ME.

WELL, THAT AT LEAST TAKES SOME OF THE *PRESSURE* OFF THE *INFINITY WATCH*.

WITHOUT THE TEMPTATION OF *GODHOOD* BEING THE END GOAL, MAYBE OUR *INFINITY GEMS* WON'T BE SUCH A *COVETED PRIZE*.

I WOULD NOT COUNT ON THAT IF I WERE YOU.

I WON'T.

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT ADAM *NOT REVIVING*.

YOU'RE *WRONG*.

AND IF I AM, *WHAT* WILL HE AWAKEN AS?

MEANING?

HE NOW CARRIES WITHIN HIM *DARKNESS* WITHOUT BENEFIT OF *LIGHT* TO CUT THROUGH THE *SHADOWS*.

HEY, WHAT *DID* HAPPEN WITH THE MAGUS?

IF WARLOCK COMES AROUND, HE MAY PROVE A MORE *HEINOUS VILLIAN* THAN EVER I WAS.

ADAM *WASTE* HIM?

DO YOU THINK YOUR FRIEND *CAPABLE* OF SUCH AN ACT?

UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, YEAH.

PERHAPS BEFORE THE ORIGINAL *INFINITY GAUNTLET* AFFAIR, HE MIGHT HAVE.

NOT NOW.

TODAY'S WARLOCK WOULD *NEVER* BE SO WASTEFUL.

YOU DON'T MEAN ADAM--

YES, I DO.

I WILL BE *DEPARTING* NOW, BEFORE MY PRESENCE HERE BECOMES KNOWN TO *OUTSIDE FORCES.*

THAT IS IF YOU HAVE *NO OBJECTIONS.*

AND IF WE DID, YOU'D *STILL* LEAVE.

THE MAGUS WOULD'VE *SUCCEEDED* IN HIS MAD QUEST IF NOT FOR *YOUR INTERVENTION.*

BUT THAT WOULD NOT STOP THIS *WORLD'S CHAMPIONS* FROM ATTEMPTING TO POUND ME INTO SUBMISSION, GIVEN HALF A CHANCE.

AND RIGHTLY SO, I MIGHT ADD.

STILL, YOU'VE *CHANGED* FROM THE COLD AND DISTANT *CREATURE* THAT *RAISED* ME.

DIFFERENT EVEN FROM THE *MAN* WHO CAME HERE JUST YESTERDAY, SEEKING *HELP.*

DEATH HAS REJECTED ME.

LIKE IT OR NOT, THANOS OF TITAN IS NOW *ONE* OF THE *LIVING.*

LIFE IS CHANGE.

THANOS, I PRAY WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL NOT BE AS ENEMIES.

A SENTIMENT I FULLY SHARE.

THAT MAN OF YOURS IS TOO WILY A FOE.

HE'S NOT MY MAN.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, GAMORA.

FAREWELL!

MAY YOU FARE WELL, ALSO TITAN.

THE MAN'S NO GOOD.

TREATS A GOOD CIGAR THAT WAY.

THAT'S SICK--!

SLEEP, DEAR ADAM.

MEND.

WE ALL HAVE NEED OF YOUR STRENGTH.

YOU SAID IT, LADY.

SOUL WORLD.

WHERE THE SPIRITS THE SOUL GEM SNATCHES GO TO SPEND ETERNITY.

FOR MOST IT IS A PLACE OF PEACE AND HARMONY.

BUT NOT FOR THE MAGUS.

SO CLOSE...

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITHIN MY GRASP AND I LET IT SLIP AWAY.

NEXT TIME I SHALL HOLD ON TIGHTER.

YES... THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME.

FROM THIS EMERALD HAVEN I SHALL MAKE MY COMEBACK!

HERE I SHALL TWIST META-PHYSICS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF A REALITY THAT HAS ABANDONED ME!

I SHALL RAISE A PSYCHIC ARMY THAT WILL USURP WARLOCK'S CONTROL OF THIS REALM.

FIRST SOUL WORLD AND THEN THE STARS!

YOU TWO WILL BE MY FIRST RECRUITS!

THE VANGUARD OF MY DESTINY!

...SO THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER...

AND SHE SAID?

WHAT?!

I PASSED THROUGH THEM!

EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.

THAT CAN'T HAVE HAPPENED!

UNLESS...

THIS IS A WORLD OF SOULS!

I AM BUT THE DARKER CORNER OF THAT WHICH IS WARLOCK.

NOT A FULL SPIRIT IN ITSELF!

IN THIS SPHERE I CANNOT EVEN CAST A SHADOW!

NOT EVEN A SHADE.

NOTHING.

LESS THAN NOTHING.

AND WHAT NOW ARE YOU, LORD THANOS?

HERO?

VILLAIN?

NEITHER?

MAYBE JUST WISER.

THE MAGUS WOULD HAVE HELD *FIRM* TO ULTIMATE POWER HAD HE GAINED A *SOLID GRIP* ON IT.

HE WOULD NOT HAVE *SUBCONSCIOUSLY SURRENDERED* IT LIKE I...

...IN DAYS PAST.

NOW?

WHO KNOWS.

GAMORA WAS CORRECT-- CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN ME.

EVEN *OLD DOGS* CAN LEARN *NEW TRICKS*.

WITH INSIGHT ONE'S *HORIZONS* WIDEN.

AS I ALWAYS SAID, *KNOWLEDGE IS POWER*.

LESSONS LEARNED: THE ONE TRUE VICTORY.

PERHAPS NOW THANOS COULD RETAIN ULTIMATE POWER WERE HE TO GAIN IT AGAIN.

BUT DO I STILL CRAVE SUCH AN EXOTIC DISH?

I SUSPECT FUTURE EVENTS WILL ANSWER THAT RHETORICAL QUERY.

YET, STILL OTHER, MORE PRESSING QUESTIONS REMAIN.

THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING WHO STOLE THE MAGUS'S COSMIC CONTAINMENT UNITS?

IN THE RUSH OF VICTORY AND ITS ACCOMPANYING BEDLAM, I DOUBT THAT ANY BUT I HAVE GIVEN THIS MYSTERY MUCH THOUGHT.

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE VIABLE SUSPECT.

THE MAGUS WAS CREATED WHEN WARLOCK USED THE INFINITY GEMS TO EXPEL ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM HIS SELF TO BE-COME A BETTER SUPREME BEING.

ALL GOOD AND EVIL...

"TODAY THE EVIL WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED.

"UNFORTUNATELY, SOMEDAY THE UNIVERSE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH WARLOCK'S GOOD SIDE.

"I FEAR THAT MAY YET PROVE TO BE THE GREATER THREAT."

JIM STARLIN
WRITER

RON LIM
PENCILER

AL MILGROM
INKER

IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORIST

JACK MORELLI
LETTERER

CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
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